

Canons of the Bible

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Hello guys, today I am going to be talking about Canons of the Bible. Canon is a Greek word for a measuring stick but it was later used as a standard for things being judged. Canon marked the Bible as being unchangeable because of its religious significance. According to Eccl 12:12, it suggests that the Bible was a sufficient text in religious communities (Brettler, 1837).

Due to unrecorded histories, there were no solid dates of when the Hebrew Bible was canonized because most documents from that era weren't reliable enough to use for a timeline. For a time, the Torah and Pentateuch were used as the Jewish Bible. The Jewish Bible was made up of a three-part canon, the Torah, Nevi'im, and Ketuvim. All Torah got canonized in the Persian period, the Nevi'im in the late Persian and early Greek period, and the Ketuvim got canonized around the time the second temple was destroyed (Brettler, 1837). The Hebrew Bible, however, was divided into four parts, the Torah, Histories, Poetical text, and Wisdom books and prophets. As you can see, the Hebrew Bible included the Torah and some other books that made it different from the Jewish Bible, but both were used by Jews. Later it was canonized by the community because of its centrality, authority, sacredness, and inspiration.

The Greek Bible or the Christian bible was an extension of the Hebrew Bible. It was first referred to as the "Septuagint" and it's mostly made up of translations and revisions of the Jewish Bible. Since most Christians were illiterate, they couldn't read Hebrew so through the translations of the protestant reforms, they were able to put the Bible into its original language. Many saw these texts as great for reading and mediation as their only value, but no establishing doctrine.

The New Testament included various gospels, narratives, letters, didactic discourses, and apocalyptic writing. The authoritative collection of text included the four gospels and ten letters of Paul. Books like Acts, Hebrew, and Revelation weren't accepted in this period, however, the book of Matthew was given canonical authority. In the second century CE, Valentinus and many other scholars undermined the Jewish God and believe he was ignorant and the scriptures mislead believers. Others didn't think of Him as the Father of Jesus. Eventually, the scholar Tertullian expressed that the Christian bible and the Hebrew Bible carried no differences.

Scholars that studied these texts later in history created "textual criticism" which allows them to analyze text through critical comparison of its different copies. This system allowed for a clearer interpretation of both the Hebrew Bible and Christian Bible, due to the

fact that there are no original versions of the Hebrew Bible or Christian Bible still around, just copies and manuscripts.

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